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The Hongkong Telegraph

TODAY'S WEATHER: Light or moderate South or SW
winds. Fair.
Noon Observations: Barometric pressure, 1011.0 mbs., 29.85
in. Temperature, 85.8 deg. F. Dew point, 76 deg. F. Relative
humidity, 72. Wind direction, S.W. Wind force, 5 knots.
High water: 5 ft. 7 in. at 2.17 p.m. Low water: 1 ft. 6 in.
at 11.41 p.m.

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VOL. IV NO. 117

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1949.

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Britain Denies Making Contact With Chinese Reds

London, May 19.—A Foreign Office spokesman tonight categorically denied that Britain had established any official contact with the Chinese Communists.

He had been questioned about a report by Drew Pearson, who said today that Britain had proposed to the Chinese Communists a deal by which she would recognise their regime in return for an assurance on retaining Hongkong as a British colony.

Official reports reaching London said that British Consuls had not yet succeeded in carrying out instructions to establish working contact with Communist authorities in the main cities they control.

These instructions were given to the Consuls several weeks ago. Efforts to make contact were redoubled at the time of the shelling of the sloop Amethyst and other British warships in the Yangtze River last month.

Consular contact with local Communist authorities would be without prejudice to the question of recognising a Communist Government.

The Foreign Office recently denied that any discussions on recognition were in progress.—Reuter.

Mr Bevin Is More Oilfields Briefed

London, May 19.—It was learned that the Cabinet today gave the Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, full power to reject at the forthcoming Paris meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers all proposals which in any way would favour sovietisation of Germany.

The Cabinet endorsed Mr Bevin's proposal to oppose establishment of a united Germany without sufficient guarantees of democratic rights in the Eastern Zone. The Cabinet also studied plans which the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Vishinsky, might submit to the Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Thus the possibility of a Soviet scheme for German economic reunification on the basis of parity between the Western and Eastern zones was unacceptable.—United Press.

The "Mad Parson" Arrested

London, May 19.—The "Mad Parson" John Edward Allen, Britain's most elusive lunatic, who has been at large for two years, was arrested in London during last night.

His arrest followed a visit by two plain-clothes policemen to a house in north-west London.—Reuter.

Situation Deteriorates

Shanghai, May 20.—Local press reports tonight spoke of a precipitate deterioration of the Nationalist military front in the Lungshwa area. The official Central News Agency failed to supply the usual communiqué on time yesterday evening. In rainy, gloomy weather Shanghai entered the eighth night of siege with the symphony of gunfire ominously absent. In an atmosphere of tension the city awaits the climax of the battle which some sources now believe to be imminent.—Reuter.

RED PILOT ESCAPES TO SWEDEN

Armed Protection

Stockholm, May 19.—Armed Swedish soldiers tonight guarded the fully armed Soviet fighter plane in which a 27-year-old Russian Air Force lieutenant landed on an airfield near here yesterday, seeking asylum.

Stockholm evening newspapers interpreted this measure—ordered by the Foreign Office and the Military High Command—as a means of preventing the pilot's attempt to destroy the aircraft and kidnap the pilot. The Foreign Office declined to comment. Earlier today, it rejected a request by the Russian Embassy here for Soviet officials to interview the short, dark-complexioned pilot, whose name is being kept secret.

No Russian may see the lieutenant until the Foreign Office Aliens Commission has considered his application to remain in Sweden as a political refugee, the Russian Embassy was told. The pilot, who was escorted from the Stockholm military aerodrome to Stockholm by two flying squad cars, said that he was "tired of the Soviet system." He told the police that he took off from an aerodrome in White Russia and did not fear reprisals, "as my wife has been sent to Siberia and we have no children."—Reuter.

Shanghai's Bund Sealed Off

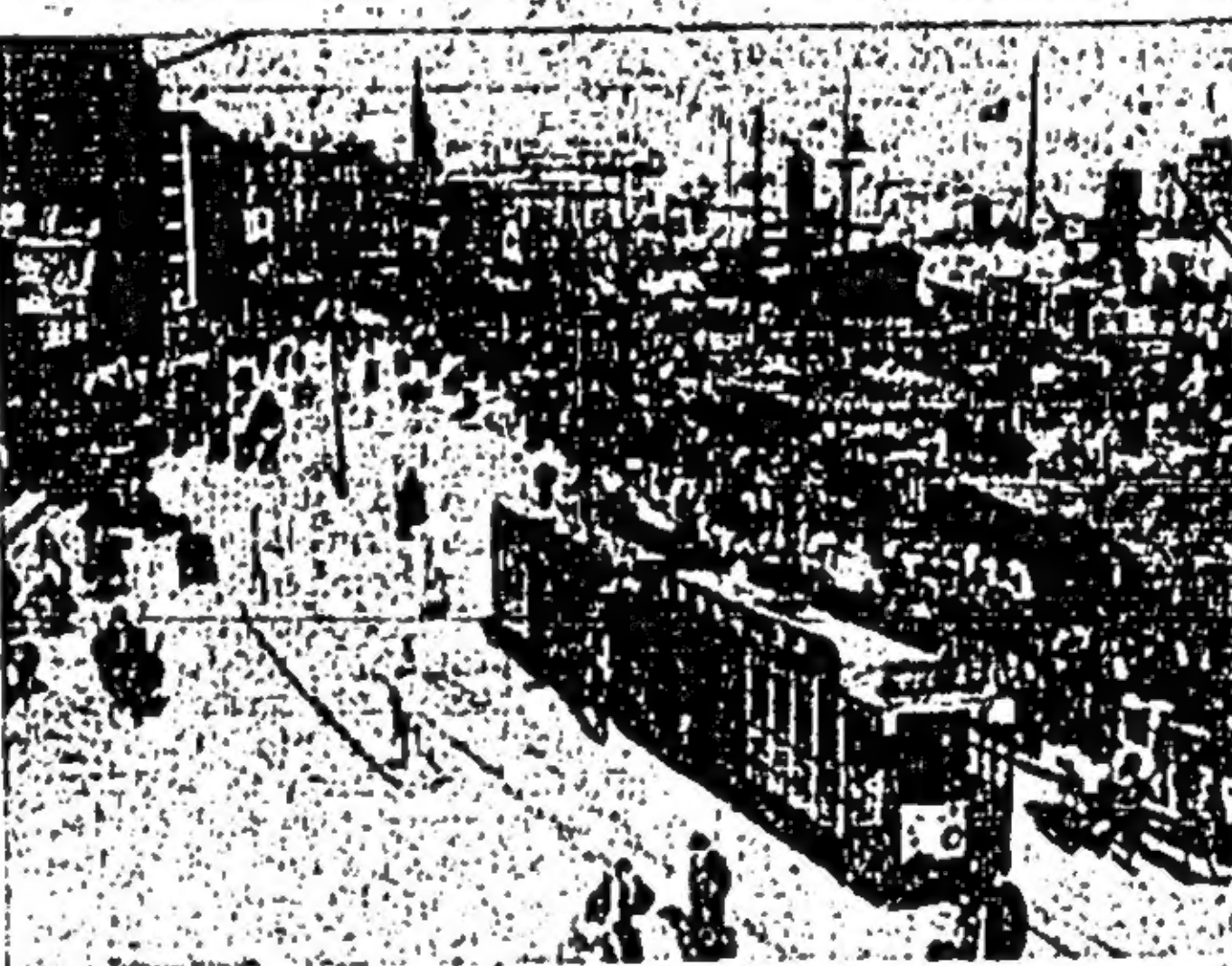
DRAMATIC POLICE ACTION

Shanghai, May 20.—Shanghai's teeming, noisy Bund with its row of imposing skyscrapers was No-Man's-Land today as Nationalist troops with bayoneted rifles barred all pedestrians and traffic from the heart of the local business area.

Last night the police authorities had dramatically sealed off the billion-dollar Bund area from the rest of the city.

The order for the sealing off of the area was contained in an official announcement carried by the Nationalist Central News Agency yesterday evening. The announcement also said that the curfew on the Whangpoo River will be lengthened by another hour from today, starting nightly at 8 o'clock local time.

No official reason was given for the move which, however, is believed to have been prompted by increasingly threatening developments in the Pootung area where several Communist columns, striking towards the bank of the Whangpoo River, are unofficially reported to be close to their objective.



A view of the Shanghai Bund, seen from the former French Concession, which has now been sealed off by the city police, isolating the foreign business section from the rest of Shanghai.

The five-mile stretch of the waterfront—from the southern limit of the former French Concession to Point Island in the Yangtze estuary—closed to civilian movements is the home of the majority of Shanghai's leading commercial and industrial concerns.

Within the sector are located such well-known long-standing British firms as Butterfield & Swire, Jardine Matheson, the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, the Chartered Bank, the Mercantile Bank, the Asiatic Petroleum Company (Shell), the North China Daily News as well as the Hotel Cathay, the British Consulate-General and the Shanghai Club, renowned for its long bar.

Other buildings in the area include the French 14-story Messageries Maritimes Building, the American-owned Glen Line Building, housing the United States Consulate-General, the Chinese-owned Palace Hotel, the Bank of China, the Central Bank of China, the Bank of Communications, the Customs House, the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company and across Soochow Creek in the Yangtze the giant plant of the American-owned Shanghai Power Company on which the entire metropolis depends for power and electricity.

WHANGPOO DESERTED
Meanwhile, no fresh reports on the military situation around the Shanghai perimeter were available this morning and throughout the night only the occasional sound of artillery and machine-gun fire was audible. With the exception of a dozen or so 500-ton transports, bunched near Shanghai's War Memorial on the Bund, the Whangpoo River was a deserted body of water.

Thousands of foreign and Chinese office workers this morning massed in side streets leading to the Bund, seeking ways and means of reaching their respective homes.

The quiet of the night and a half hours curfew last night was disturbed only by the rumble of military truck convoys, most of them heading northward with steel-helmeted troops and supplies.

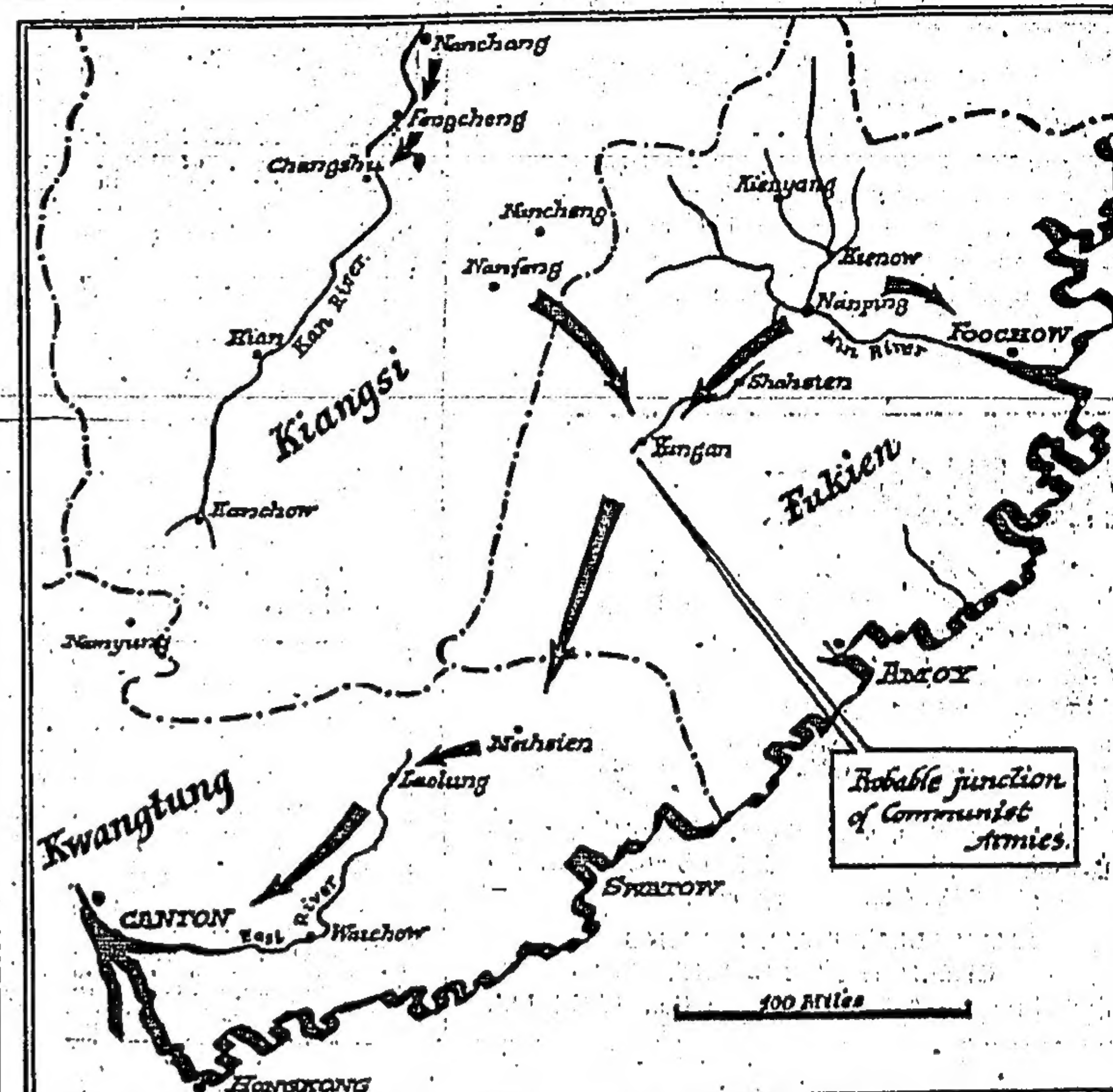
The vital Lungshwa airfield was this morning believed to be still in Nationalist hands and at least one commercial plane was using the field.

The Police Commissioner, Colonel Mao Sen, announced that "heavy Nationalist units were being rushed to strengthen the defence of the city."

ASSURANCE GIVEN
Meanwhile, the Mayor, General Chen Liang, refused press reports that he has not reacted to the humanitarian offer of the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva.

Mayor Chen, immediately upon receipt of the letter from Geneva, replied in a written communication on May 18 in which he said, "You can count on me for my wholehearted support and co-operation." He added, "I take this opportunity of reassuring you that at this critical hour nothing will be more appreciative and welcome than such help as your organization is prepared to extend to 6,000,000 people in a noble, unselfish effort to alleviate their possible hardship and suffering. My interest in Red Cross assistance has been greatly aroused and I am looking forward to hearing from you again about further developments of the Geneva proposal."—Reuter.

Pattern Of Reds' Southward Advance



Kwangtung Threatened By Two-Pronged Drive

By the Telegraph's Military Observer

The pattern of Chinese Communist strategy in South China is becoming clearer. Every move that Mao Tse-tung's forces make tends to support the view that, in their drive south to Canton, they are paying less attention to the Hankow-Canton Railway and are concentrating on two other alternative routes, through Kiangsi and Fukien provinces.

Both these routes are shorter and lead easily into Kwangtung. Besides these considerations, the Communists are familiar with the terrain, having spent a long period in the area before undertaking their trek to Shensi.

Between these two routes, the less likely one they are going to take is south along the Kan River in Kiangsi. There are several obstacles, chief of which are the better preparedness on the part of the Nationalist defenders in the region, the tougher and more independent character of the people and the greater natural hazards.

RIVER ROUTE

The route along the river, if they should choose to follow it, will take them to Kian and then to Kanchow, in the south of the province, whence they could cut southwesterly into Nanyang, in Kwangtung, and thence along the highway to Kungong, on the Hankow-Canton Railway, or south-easterly to Hoping and on to Laotung, on the East River.

It seems that an advance along the Kan River is not the most highly placed plan in Chinese Communist military councils. Other Red troops southeast of Fengcheng, after capturing Nanchang and Nanfeng, are reported to have crossed into Fukien at a point near the Kin River, near Kienning and Ninghsia. From this area, the probable direction which they will take is towards Yungan, in the southwest of the province.

This is only a subsidiary move into Fukien. The main Communist drive here is straight down from the north, where Pucheng, Chungang, Kienyang, Kienow and Nanping have been taken in rapid succession. Nanping is on the Min River and less than 30 miles from Fochow, the capital of the province.

Some observers think that Fochow may be the Communist next objective. They are admittedly striking eastwards towards the coast, but at the same time other Communist forces are continuing to press south. Should they take Shensi, their next obvious objective would be Yungan, less than 20 miles south.

Yungan, in Fukien, therefore looms as a probable key point in the Communist's southward march. It is here that the forces coming from the north and those coming from Kiangsi are likely to effect a junction for a concerted drive into east Kwangtung. Yungan is connected by road with Meihien, where the highway continues through Hsingto-Laoitung, on the East River.

Reports have come in this week that Communist guerrillas are already in control at Meihien and in adjacent districts, and that Laoitung itself has been surrounded. These areas are known to be ridden with elements sympathetic to the Reds.

SOVIET FORMULA FOR SINGLE GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Paris, May 19.—Diplomatic circles here believed today that Russia might propose at the forthcoming "Big Four" conference a formula for a single German Government by combining the provisional constitution of the Soviet zone People's Council and the West German Basic Law agreed at Bonn.

They suggested that Russia might use the recent voting for the People's Congress—in which a third of the electors opposed the official list of candidates—to force away all West German objections that the Congress was not the expression of a free election.

The main obstacle to the acceptance of such a proposal is the rejection in advance by leading West German politicians of any constitutional discussion with the People's Council or People's Congress.

Grounds for this refusal were that neither of these bodies could be regarded as truly representative political opinion in the Soviet occupied half of Germany.

The German Communists have by announcing the results of the voting—which is the opinion of most Western observers amounts to a referendum.

avoids the Reds, if they are not actually Communists. The same is true of the East River region, all the way to Wanchow and the delta district near Canton.

On this route, the ground has been well prepared for the Communists by propaganda and infiltration. They will enjoy greater facility of movement and waste less actual military energy.

It appears that the Canton authorities have fully appreciated all these factors, and that may have been at the back of the decision taken during the past week to put the city in a state of war and to evacuate government offices.

FATAL TRAIN SMASH

Oslo, May 19.—Three people were killed and several injured when an Oslo-bound train crashed into a standing locomotive near Lillestrom tonight.

The first car of the main Norway-Sweden line was blocked.

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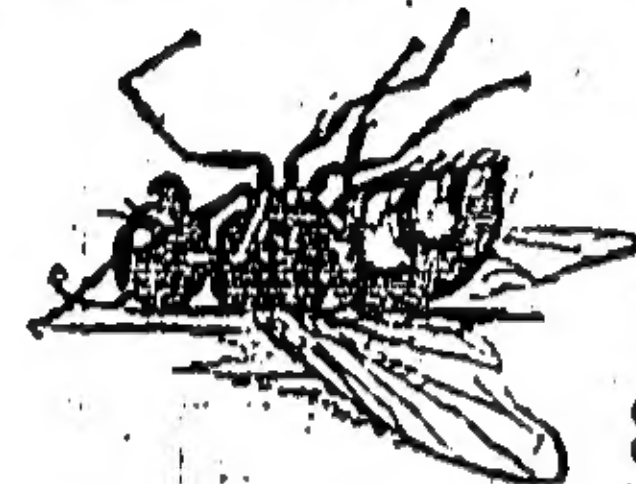
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WOMANSENSE

GAY RAINWEAR PLAYS DOUBLE ROLE

By Barbara E. Scott Fisher



DOWN the aisle of rain-fashion... show one would see the swing and sway of raincoats made of failles, of nontarnishable metallics, tullestas and satins, and glowing cottons, not to mention the faithful gabardines—all water repellent as a duck's back.

These are a far cry from the vulcanized rubber this courageous inventor struggled so long and under such difficulties to perfect. Yet he made possible the first raincoat by accidentally dropping a bit of rubber treated with sulphur on an old pot-bellied stove. Though his relationship to today's raincoat is distant, it's rather nice to give him a bow.

WEATHER MOODS DON'T MATTER

Today's raincoat is hand-some enough to double as a topcoat over the most impressive of your dinner dresses, equally at home as a shelter for the lovely late afternoon dresses crowding the market. If rain is pouring down and you start out with your new raincoat early in the day, you know you will feel perfectly comfortable in it if the sun comes out at noon.

One of the newest and most interesting of the new textures appearing in raincoats is made of crinkled nylon. And though they don't really need much in the way of a "silver lining," these coats have them, made of detectable tullestas. For lightness, washability, and packability, this nylon seersucker raincoat made with back fullness shirred on an elastic at the waist and cinched with a belt which ties with a bow in front, is hard to beat. It comes in black and navy.

NYLON PROVES ITSELF AGAIN

In the market a new crease-proof fabric is meeting with wide acceptance. It comes in both a small and large crinkle in the better-styled raincoats and never shows a wrinkle. The fabric can be washed without ironing, and can accommodate itself to fashions that are both dressy and tailored. Umbrella in the same fabric and dainty matching bonnets make the rainwear practically irresistible.

Another raincoat with a delightfully feminine air is made of crinkled nylon. It comes in both a small and large crinkle in the better-styled raincoats and never shows a wrinkle. The fabric can be washed without ironing, and can accommodate itself to fashions that are both dressy and tailored. Umbrella in the same fabric and dainty matching bonnets make the rainwear practically irresistible.

More novel is a lizard-printed, reptile-skin raincoat which is fully lined and comes in either brown or a delicate silvery gray. This is a rayon fabric treated with a durable water-repellent finish.

CASUAL TWEEDS ADAPTABLE

Casual tweeds in bold, daring plaids double for rain or fair weather, and appeal to the travel-minded. An imported French two-toned gray tweed, in smaller plaid and more satiny finish, can scarcely be

distinguished from a regular topcoat, though it, too, is treated for water repellency.

The distinction between water-proofing and water repellency makes all the difference in today's rainwear. Fabrics which are treated for water repellency have pores that are open so that the fabric lets you enjoy a little air. Where waterproofing is used, the pores of the fabric are closed, and your raincoat is apt to be too warm over another coat.

One of the new ideas in water-repellent fabric is introduced in rayon falls raincoats. These are made in interesting color combinations, for each coat is cuffed and its hood lined with a contrasting color.

For dressy occasions there is a pinky beige trimmed in skipper blue and, reversing the treatment, the coat comes in skipper blue set off with beige cuffs and lined, detachable hood. Other combinations are beige and toast, toast and beige, gray and skipper blue, and skipper blue and gray. Shoestring belts, set-in sleeves and their lightness of weight give these failles the privileges of topcoats any time, anywhere. The coats are sold in all parts of the country, and so great has been the demand for them that the manufacturer has a hard time keeping up with the orders.

A variation of the plain water-repellent faille coat is seen in a print faille which carries a split dot. It comes in the same color combinations, in sizes 8 to 18.

IRIDESCENT FABRICS FAVOURED

Everybody who owns one knows the satisfaction of wrinkle-resistant cotton, and one of the important raincoats of the season is made of woven cotton, water repellent, wrinkle-proof and Sanforized. This comes in a small plaid in several colors, and has a sort of added underlaid at the back of the coat with a five-button fly effect, the plaid used diagonally to set it off. A front

HEARING AIDS

By HERMAN N. BUNDESEN, M.D.

If you are hard of hearing and contemplate the use of a hearing aid, be sure to secure the advice of a qualified physician or ear specialist before purchasing a hearing aid. It is likely that the doctor may find that normal hearing can be restored by the removal of impacted wax from the ear canal, or determine the nature of your hearing loss and advise as to whether or not a hearing aid will be of benefit.

Two Types

There are two types of hearing aids: air conduction, and bone conduction. Variations in tone and amplification can be obtained by adjustment of individual controls. Certain bone receivers tend to bring out the lower tones and mask the higher ones so that the voice sounds louder and deeper. This will make the consonants less clear.

A hearing aid may cause a squealing noise when it is turned on to its fullest extent, unless the ear-piece provides an airtight seal. For this reason, the best results with hearing aids—especially in difficult cases—seem to be secured when a moulded plastic ear-piece is obtained.

Speech, which is the type of sound the deaf mostly need to

hear, is made up of a complex pattern of sound waves. The loudness of speech is measured in what are known as decibels. The average speech varies in loudness—between 30 and 60 decibels, but this is not constant because the vowel sounds are, in general, lower than those made by the consonants.

Magnify Sounds

It is the function of a hearing aid to magnify these sounds just as glasses magnify print. However, in some cases, due to the intricate nature of speech, the increase in volume may result in a distortion of the sound which makes it difficult to understand. Most good hearing aids, however, will cause no such difficulty until the loudness reaches 120 decibels.

The ability to hear sound depends upon a number of factors in the deafened person, such as the amount of loss in each of the speech types. For example, some people may be unable to hear high tones, while others may not hear low tones. A second factor of importance is the amount of damage to the nerve of hearing. These things must be taken into consideration when determining whether or not a hearing aid would be of any value.

Other factors of importance are the age of the patient, the duration of the condition, whether the patient can read lips satisfactorily, and the type of work that he does.

Speech Loudness

As I have mentioned above, the average speech loudness is between 30 and 60 decibels. Those persons with a hearing loss of less than 30 decibels usually have little trouble with ordinary day-to-day conversation, but they may have some trouble at a lecture or at the theatre. Those with losses between 30 and 40 decibels miss the quieter speech sound and often complain that people are mumbling. These persons find hearing aids of definite usefulness, particularly when a number of people engage in conversation. Those who have a loss between 40 and 60 decibels cannot follow the conversational voice and need hearing aids for daily use.

Be sure to consult your physician and follow his advice and guidance.

Choosing New Items of Make-Up



A lipstick which holds two shades in one container is a practical item for your handbag. This way, you have a light and a dark shade always at hand.

By HELEN FOLLETT

MANY girls who have been flippant about make-up are now finding that it is a practical item for their handbag. This way, you have a light and a dark shade always at hand.

Among the powder offerings on cosmetic counters you will find delicate flesh tones that give softness and smoothness to the skin. There are also some flatter pink and ivory blends. The why of all that is that factory blushes have been overdone, have gone into a decline, as must all beauty fads in due course of time. The same face is not harmonious with present day styles in dress.

Put on powder with a sparing hand, adding it only as you need it. See that the light film is spread evenly. Then tap the flesh lightly with your finger—

While lipsticks have inclined toward wine shades, there are some new orange-red ones that are lovely on blondes whose complexions carry a golden cast. One company even makes two separate shades which are contained in a single case. This way, you can have a light and dark shade always on hand. Be slow making selections of make-up items. Getting the right colours is half the trick of putting up a pretty portrait. Use a strong mirror placed in a strong light. Take your time. Making a new face is one job that cannot be hurried.

One-Burner Meal for Hot Days

I found very good vegetables at the market. This cabbage is big and fine; here are string beans so fresh they crack when I break them, and here is an amusing marrow squash—it is almost a yard long! But we will eat it by inches. Now I am ready to start to cook the dinner.

"It's already on the stove," I said. "I thought we'd have a one-kettle meal. You know these days are so hot we must be careful not to heat up the house. This dinner needs only one burner, and we'll turn it low. Besides, think how much dish-washing we'll save!"

"And what is Madame cooking in the kettle?" inquired the Chef, a tone of polite irony in his voice.

"The complete main course," I replied sweetly. "It's going to be an American Pot-au-Feu."

"But I have never heard of that!" remarked the Chef. "Is it like our French pot-au-feu, made with the beef, the leeks, the carrots and the spinach all boiled together in the kettle?"

"The method of cooking is the same," I explained, "but the ingredients are a little different. For meat I'm using breast of lamb—the vegetables are carrots and potatoes, and I also need some of that cabbage you bought. Those string beans look so good. I'll add some of them too, and if you have no objections, Chef, I'll cut about 12 inches of this marrow and slice it in."

The Chef looked a bit puzzled. "What you are going to have is a pot-pourri."

"Delicious Mixture," I called it pot-pourri, or call it pot-au-feu, but what we're going to have is a big kettle full of a delicious mixture of liquid from the meat to make plenty of vegetables cookatory into gravy. With twigs of paper towelling blot off the remaining fat. Then stir to easy to prepare. We'll use only one burner. It's cooked in a single utensil, and could even be taken outdoors. Kettle and all for service, if dinner is in a patio or on a terrace."

The Chef was visibly pleased. "May I suggest a very nice boiled kettle dinner of the joints of the ox tail cooked with carrots, tomatoes, string beans and barley?"

"And the tough old hen, that is disjointed and boiled with the tomatoes, onions, peppers, rice and a little garlic, is a very good Italian dish," the Chef went on warning up to the subject. "I fast, Madame, I think there is a possibility for a boiled dinner in every language, as well as New England. Of course, they all need long, slow, careful cooking."

"That's true. Although they're called 'boiled dinners' for especially fine flavour."



EARLY WASHING—Doris (left) and Pat Warner, models, in costumes of 1949 and 1950, respectively. One of the first electric washing machines at the Chicago Furniture Mart show.

WORLD NEWS IN PICTURES



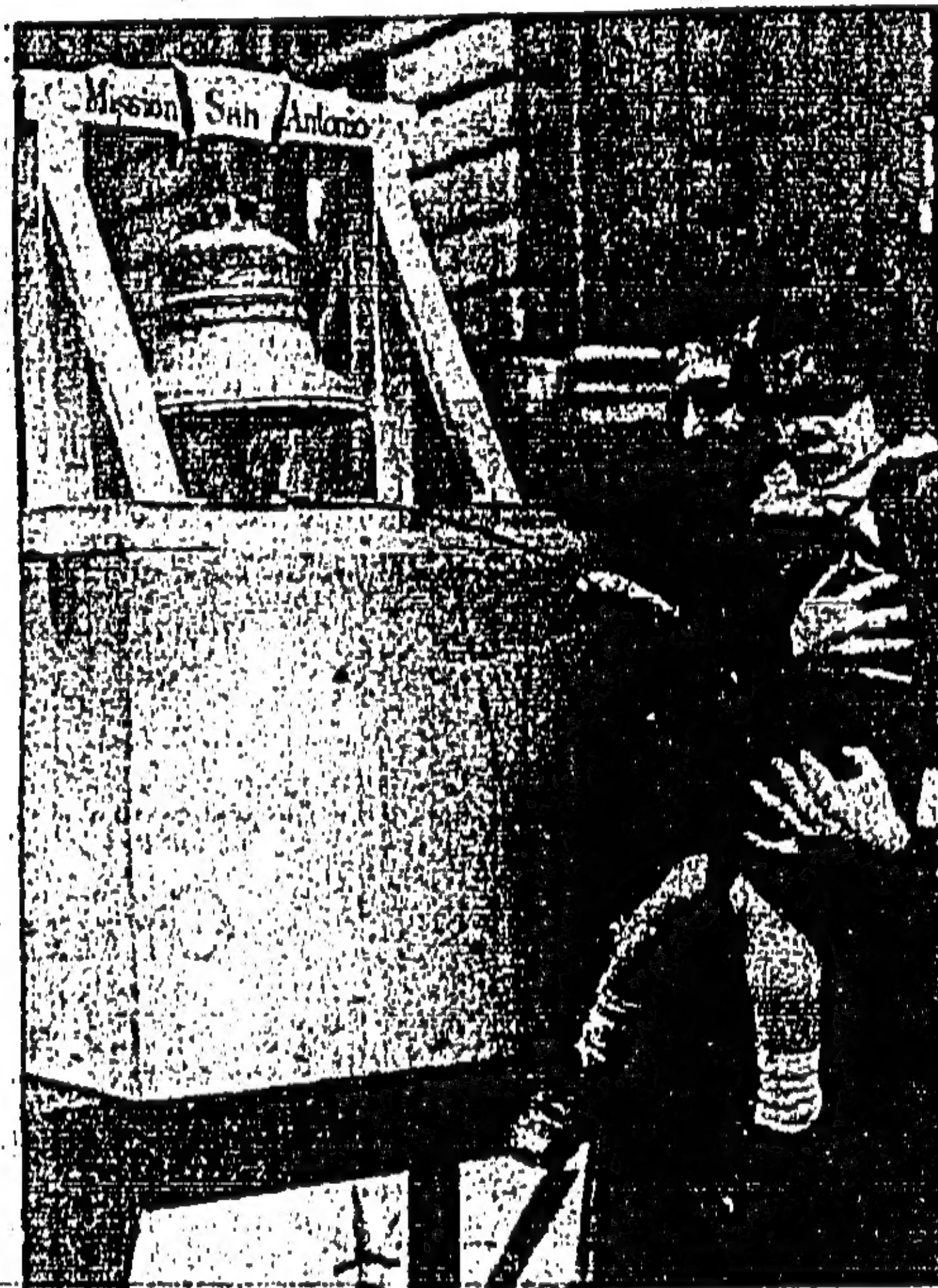
CONSTRUCTION HAZARDS—Hard at work building its nest in an elm tree in Chicago, this robin apparently became entangled in a string, and tumbled to death by hanging.



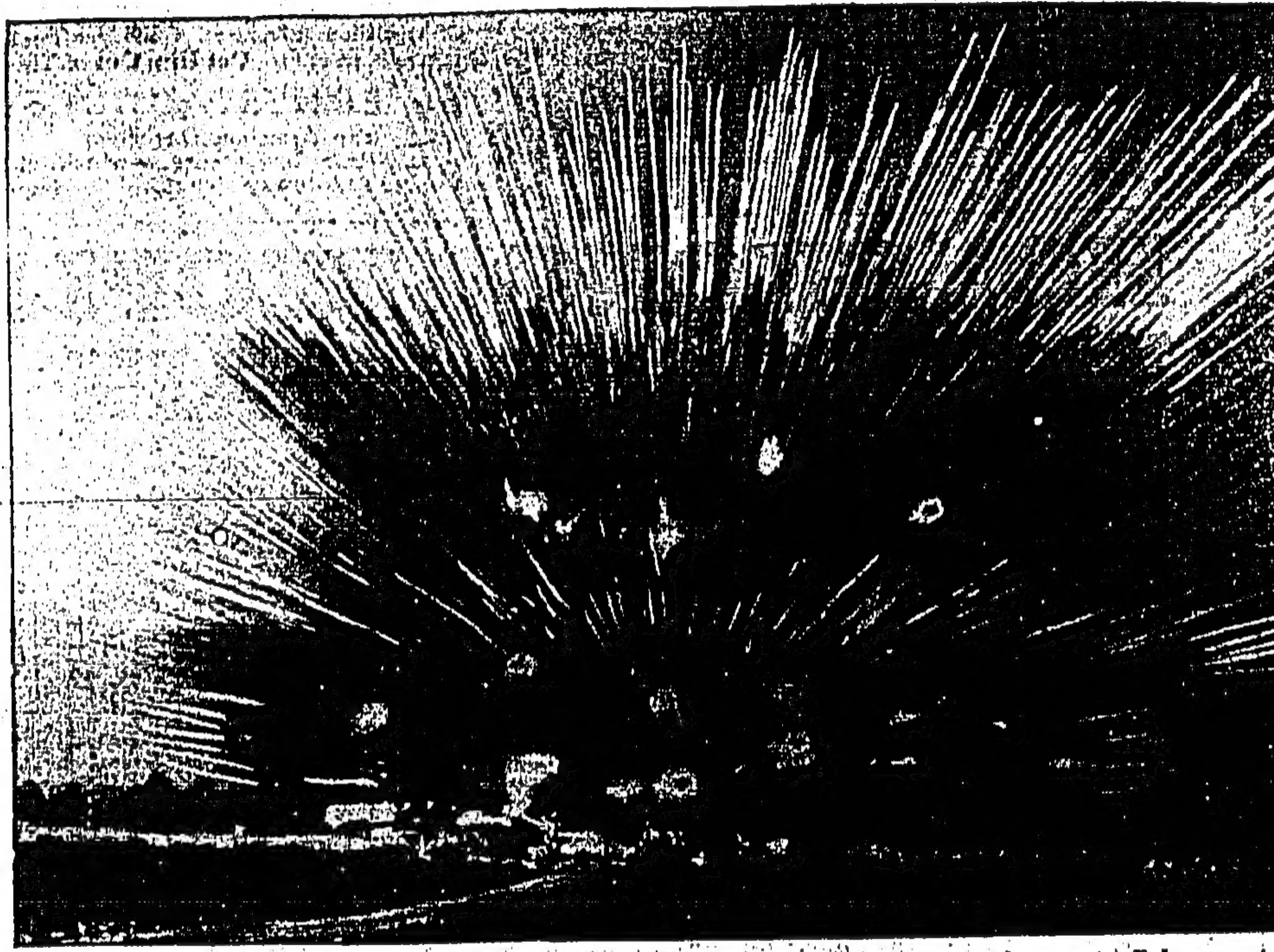
ALL UP IN SMOKE—When a forest fire started in a pine belt near Hammon, New Jersey, firemen were rushed from a 25-mile area. Here the blaze has already made its way over 50 acres of woodland and is spreading rapidly before being brought under control.



FOR RESIGNING—These Germans, in Munich, raise their arms to signify approval of the resignation of Bavaria's present government. Alfred Loritz, head of the Economic Reconstruction Party, charged that the state was badly administered and that Dr Hans Schwarzmann, brother-in-law of Ribbentrop, holds a position in the Bavarian State Chancellery.



VERY OLD—On its way to London, this bell was brought to New York from the restored mission San Antonio de Padua, in California. Father Kenneth Henriques holds Dorothy Paul, 3, as she rings the historic bell, which was first sounded in 1771.



DETONATION PATTERNS—This explosion of a 10,000-lb. general purpose bomb was set off by remote control during ballistic tests at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. The white streaks are not bits of burning explosive; they are glowing air, caused when the air is compressed by the outward rush of the fragments. Trees in the background are about 40 feet high.



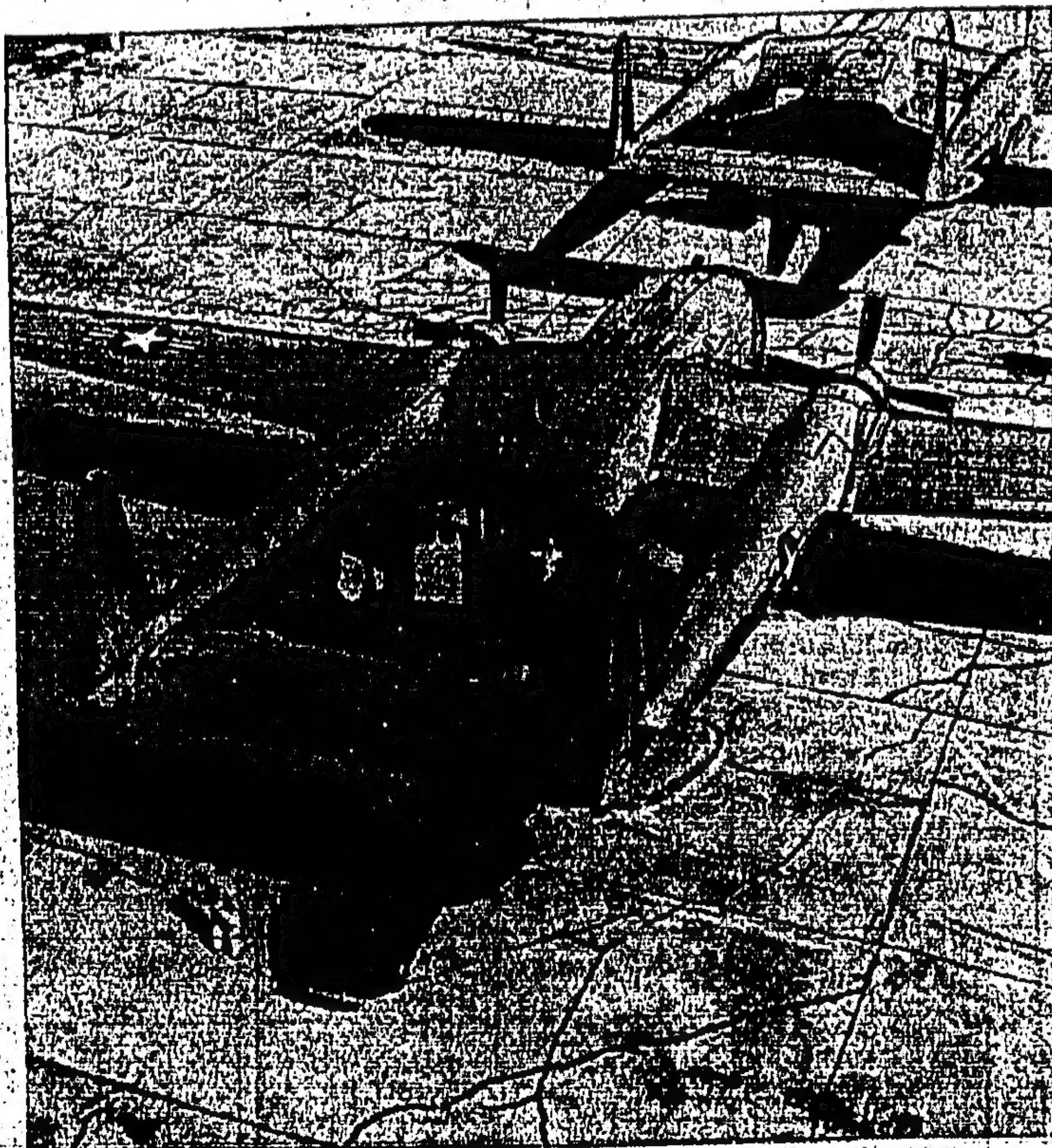
QUICK TRANSFUSION—When he failed to halt on police orders in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Anthony Natrone was accidentally shot. His arm hangs over the side of a stretcher in the hospital, as an intern and a nurse give him an injection of blood plasma.



DEATH DEFYING—After catching the bare foot of her husband, Rene, with her own bare feet, Madeline Gerardo waves and smiles broadly. The French couple's act is a highlight at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus at Madison Square Garden in New York. They work on a trapeze without a net.



COME ON—Evelyn Dupes, of St. Petersburg, Florida, is perfectly willing to play ball. Trouble is, no one's around but the photographer—and he's working.



LOADING UP—A ground crew member assists in loading a USAF staff car aboard a Fairchild C-119, a new troop cargo carrier, in Hagerstown, Maryland. Ramps are provided to load rolling equipment, and dual doors enable two groups of paratroopers to jump simultaneously.

**TODAY'S
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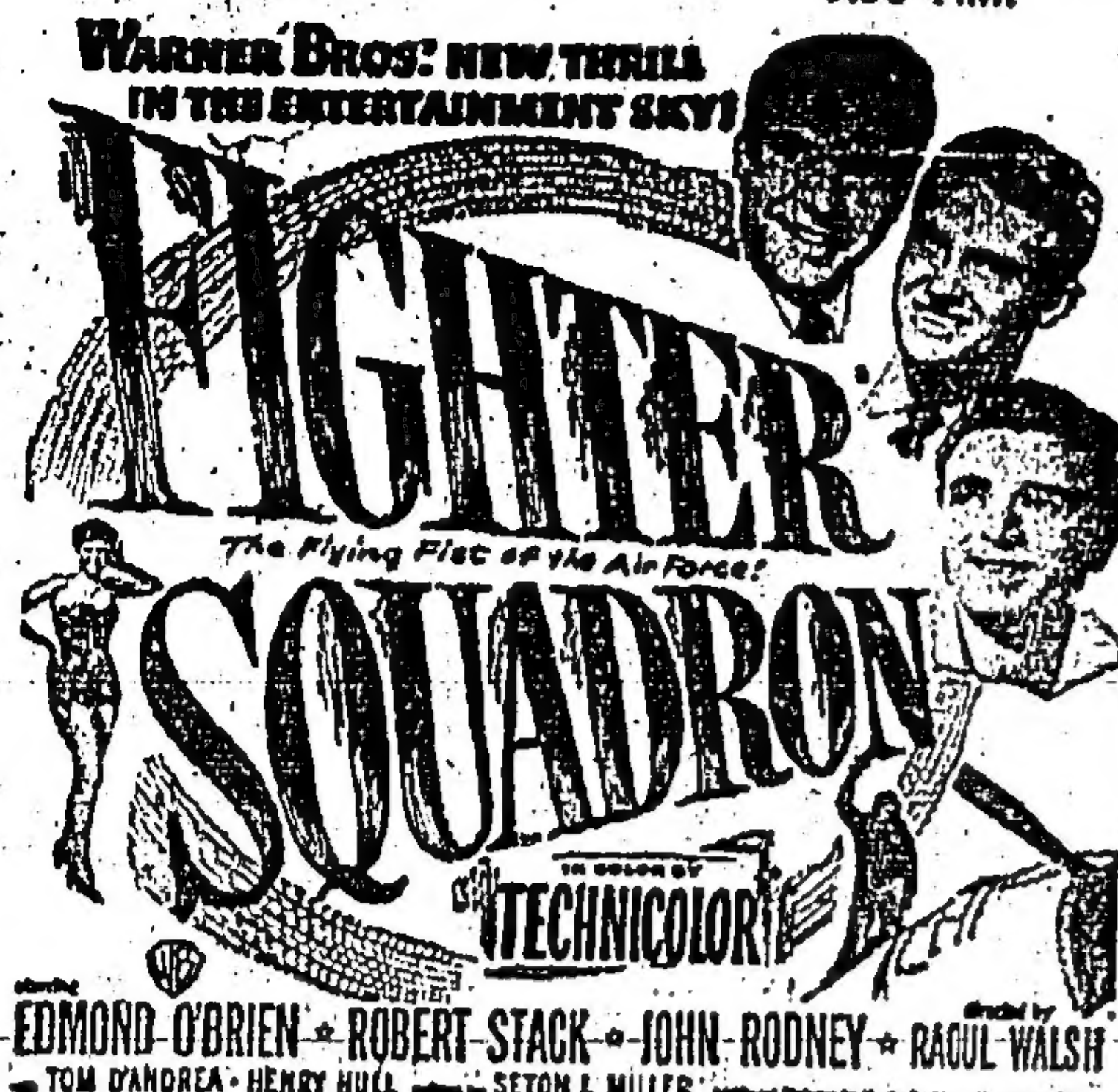
Now—Exciting—yes—the most beautiful women in the world depend on Tangee, the world's finest lipstick! And Tangee GAY RED is just the color you need to keep up your "lip-appeal". Beautiful women like Mrs. Adolphe Menjou, Mrs. Randolph Scott, to name a few, say GAY RED is the "hit color" of the year...
—because this exciting new shade really does make your lips look young and gay...
—because it gives you all the famous advantages of Tangee's exclusive Pearl-Finish. Discover GAY RED today.

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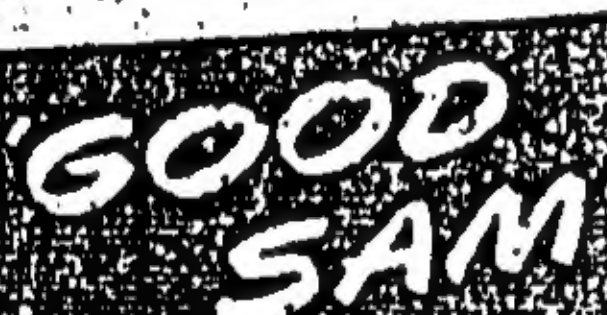
Ann and Gary together—and in love
—in the wonderful comedy by Leo
McCabe, who made "THE BELLS OF ST.
MARY'S" and "GOING MY WAY!"



RAINBOW PRODUCTIONS, INC. presents

GARY COOPER • ANN SHERIDAN

in LEO MCCABE'S



EDMUND LOWE • JOAN LORRING • CLINTON SUNDGREN
Produced and Directed by LEO MCCABE • Screenplay by Ken Englund

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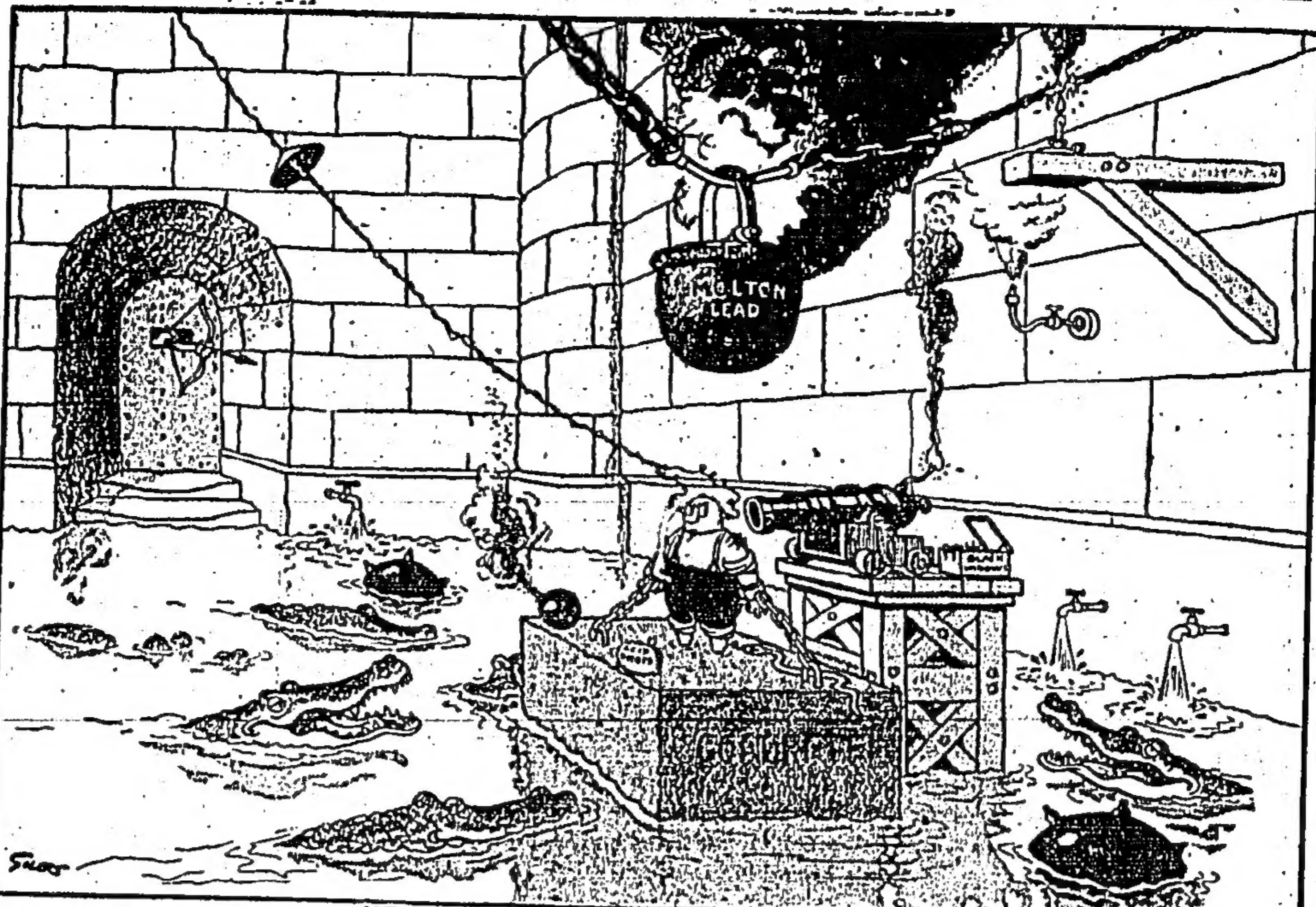
TO-MORROW



FIRST TIME SHOWING IN HONGKONG

GILES introduces GET HIM OUT OF THIS!

No. 1



Maybe that schoolboy had something when he said the trouble with Dick Barton is that he gets out of his scrapes too easily.... Today GILES spotlights the father of his famous family in an all-time high for tight corners—and says: Get Him Out of This! Don't take it as more than a curtain-raiser for—TOMORROW

when the problem becomes more reasonable, and the Telegraph presents Get Him Out of This—No. 2

by ERNEST DUDLEY

(the Armchair Detective)

It is a new-style brain-teaser—which challenges all those who like to say "Nothing is impossible."

HONGKONG PEOPLE ARE FACING IT AGAIN

BY
EMILY
HAHN

SO it begins all over again. On Hongkong's Peak, in town, or over in Kowloon, people listen to the radio and read about themselves in the paper. Then they go about their daily business, which is a combination of work and play. To the observer, emphasis seems to be on the play.

Hongkong has changed since 1941. Some offices have been moved; some houses have been repaired and refurbished. At the parties a few faces are missing. But life isn't very different.

Now it begins all over again. Maybe it makes you angry, maybe you want to give them a good shake; but you'll have to admit one thing. Whatever else one may think of the British in the Far East, they're tough. The Japs, when they swarmed into Hongkong, followed a carefully planned programme to destroy British prestige, or, as the Chinese call it, "face."

They herded the whites into filthy little waterfront hotels and told the Chinese to look at their former rulers and laugh. Then they put the British into concentration camps and forgot them, or half-forgot them, for four years. According to the Colonel Blimps at home, British "face" suffered a death-blow at that time and will never be resuscitated. But I wonder.

Enormous Task

SINCE the Japanese surrender, Hongkong has made a miraculous recovery. The British swarmed out of prison camp, and many of them, after years of suffering and malnutrition, went straight back to work, to the enormous task of rebuilding the colony.

That is the sort of thing we used to admire in the Asiatics, without thinking any European could share their capacity to endure and recover. Especially, we would have said, these British could not do it, because for years before they had lived in softening luxury. They were too easy-going, too conscious of their power—and as we have been corrupt. But those years between 1941 and 1945 worked the mental fat off them and gave back to them something more important than the old inheritance of prestige.

Today Hongkong is the only community in China where law and order, as we know them, still prevail, and where inflation has not got the bit between its teeth. Hongkong is still, as she was before the war, the goal of refugees of every class from all over China.

Anybody's Guess

HOW long will she maintain this position? It is anybody's guess, but there can be no doubt that another test is coming. When it arrives, what will happen to the long-suffering British inhabitants? The Chinese Communists will certainly turn their attention sooner or later to his little outpost of the Empire they hate. Even non-Communist Chinese have often declared that they want Hongkong back. What is going to happen?

There are many possible answers. The non-whites of Hongkong may play a large part in the next upset. What is their state of mind?

There have been many errors in the policy of past governments of Hongkong in their dealings with the local people, and the present government is the heir to some of these mistakes.

True, the British have consistently honoured the big, wealthy Chinese families of the colony. They have treated them with respect, and with few exceptions these taipans showed staunch loyalty to Britain during

the war. But Hongkong is not made up exclusively of these clans. She is a great mass of poorer people, mixed in blood and tradition, and consequently confused in motive.

Like all Eastern seaports, she has a large population of Eurasians, or mixed-bloods. These people, though they have been brought up according to a British pattern, are the true natives of the colony. After Chinese came to Hongkong, British Chinese came in thousands to settle there, but their full-blooded descendants still consider themselves first and foremost natives of China.

Great Courage

THE Eurasians are not the same, though most of them have a choice of ancestral lands; it is this very duality which makes them cling to the island. Though they can claim kinship with near or distant Chinese, or British, or Portuguese, Hongkong is their true home. This was evident during the hostilities, when the mixed-blood soldiers fought magnificently, with tremendous courage, the courage a man shows only when his homeland is invaded. Great numbers of these boys were wiped out.

In dealing with these people the government departments have followed a policy which the natives consider unjust, and which was certainly, to say the least, tactless.

I do not mention the social aspects of the colour-bar; in official circles it is not supposed to exist, though of course it does. It is the unequal salary which enrages the Eurasians more than the matter of discrimination in a social sense.

A mixed-blood clerk, for example, or a hospital official, is paid a small salary; usually there is a top limit beyond which he can never go. When he sees Englishmen coming out to Hongkong and starting in at a salary three times his highest possible pay he naturally feels resentful. To be told that this is fair as he can live cheaper than an Englishman because he is used to living cheaper, does not allay his wrath.

As for the Chinese it is impossible to discuss them as a whole, they are not a homogeneous body in Hongkong. There are ordinary non-political workers who are there simply because they were born in

the vicinity, and because their money is worth more in the city.

There are refugees who fled to Hongkong before the war hit the East. There are other recent refugees, who are sleeping in now in spite of all the government can do to avoid overcrowding.

There are the Communists before, and now there are many more, making ready for whatever they have to do when the time comes, when they get their orders.

Generally speaking, Chinese are intensely practical and sentiment as we know it is not part of their philosophy. Whatever seems best for his family in the immediate

American novelist Emily Hahn, now living in England with her husband, Major Charles Boxer, former Hongkong staff officer, saw the Japanese invasion. How will Hongkong's Britons and other elements measure up to the new situation resulting from developments in China? She gives her answers in this article

future governs a Chinese decision. In the West, most of us may help the British to prevail, but the British to prevail, but the Chinese were just beginning to be nationalistic when the war aggravated China's chronic troubles. How will this fact affect the British in Hongkong?

Usually, the coolie goes where he is driven. He may not put up much of a struggle against the Communists. He did struggle against the Japanese, but he considered the Japs foreigners. On the other hand, he may still feel that his best bet is the British Government. The fact that many Chinese workers are running to Hongkong for safety indicates that his attitude exists in strength.

On a Volcano

THE British have been in Hongkong more than a century. On the whole they have done well by the people, even from the people's point of view, which is grimly critical.

The Chinese have always been a complacent, and before the Japanese interim they longed to be rid of the British, but many of them have now changed their minds. Thus their very

PARIS REGAINS HER YOUTH

By SAM WHITE

PARIS these days is like a still beautiful woman who has suddenly and miraculously shed 10 years of her age. The city has now almost completely recaptured its prewar glamour.

Everyone can feel it and sense it, from the most casual tourist to the hard-bitten and cynical under-privileged members of French society.

And it has all happened suddenly and as inexplicably as the early arrival of glorious spring weather.

Conversation everywhere has taken a reminiscent turn.

People will recall that only three months ago the coffee in the bistrot next door was ersatz, the beer watery, the shopkeepers unbearable with their arrogance. There was no milk, no croissants—which the French had not seen anyway since the early days of the war—and there were recurring shortages of butter and meat.

Now, no self-respecting grocer's shop is without its huge mound of butter in the window, now croissants can be eaten in any cafe, now coffee is real coffee and the beer tastes as though it had come from a prewar north country brew.

To get milk in your coffee all you have to do is ask for it. If you are fussy and want cream, then there are an increasing number of cafes which will serve you with that, too.

The French sum it up in one vivid phrase: "Le sourire commercial est revenu"—The commercial smile has come back again.

All this is tough on the spivs. France is now intrigued by the mystery of what happens to the black marketeers when the bottom drops out of the Black Market.

What happens to the currency touts who once infested the boulevards and are now getting a terrible hiding from a revalued franc which is shaping up to the dollar and the pound like a new Carpenter?

Some of the widest of wide boys are forced back to humble paid-by-the-week jobs.

How has this great transformation been achieved? Partly as the result of two bumper harvests, partly because the natural richness of France was bound sooner or later to beat its black market bounds, but mainly because of U.S. dollar aid.

This is prosperity—but it is prosperity strictly on tick.

When Marshall Aid ends in 1952 France will be forced to stand on its own feet. But the French are working on the principle that nothing succeeds like success.

A particular success is a night club in the Rose Rouge which has a floor show performed by four men. "Les Femmes Jacques" which is the rage of Paris.

A success, too, is the French film "Manon". It is an adaptation of "Romeo and Juliet" to the period of the Occupation.

The film has brought great misery to a respectable French family occupying an imposing house on the outskirts of Paris, which is depicted in the film as a Parisian palace of vice.

Shows you may cheerfully skin. The new Folies Bergères with an over-the-top Josephine Baker and an extraordinary vulgar scene in which the theatre is converted into the Notre Dame cathedral.

(London Express Service)

Poor old Orion

H.M.S. ORION, the cruiser the Germans could not sink in scores of Malta convoy fights, a dozen bombardments and landings and two major invasions, is in the wars again.

The Admiralty has announced that Orion suffered hull damage and flooding of compartments while acting as target ship for underwater explosion tests in Loch Striven.

She has been docked for inspection and repairs.

An Admiralty spokesman said: "It was a very big explosion." "Poor old Orion! Too gallant and active a lady to finish her career rusting in retirement, she is ending her days usefully as a target ship before going to the shipbreakers."

"Razor Ship"

She became known as the "razor ship" because of one of the strangest ventures in the Mediterranean waters. When the Germans launched their radio-controlled bomb, Orion was the first target. As the fearsome new weapon shadowed Orion's officers, she was switching on their electric razors in the hope that the bomb's delicate radio equipment would jam.

Later the Admiralty produced a counter to the bomb. "Broadly, it incorporated the principle of the burning electric razor."

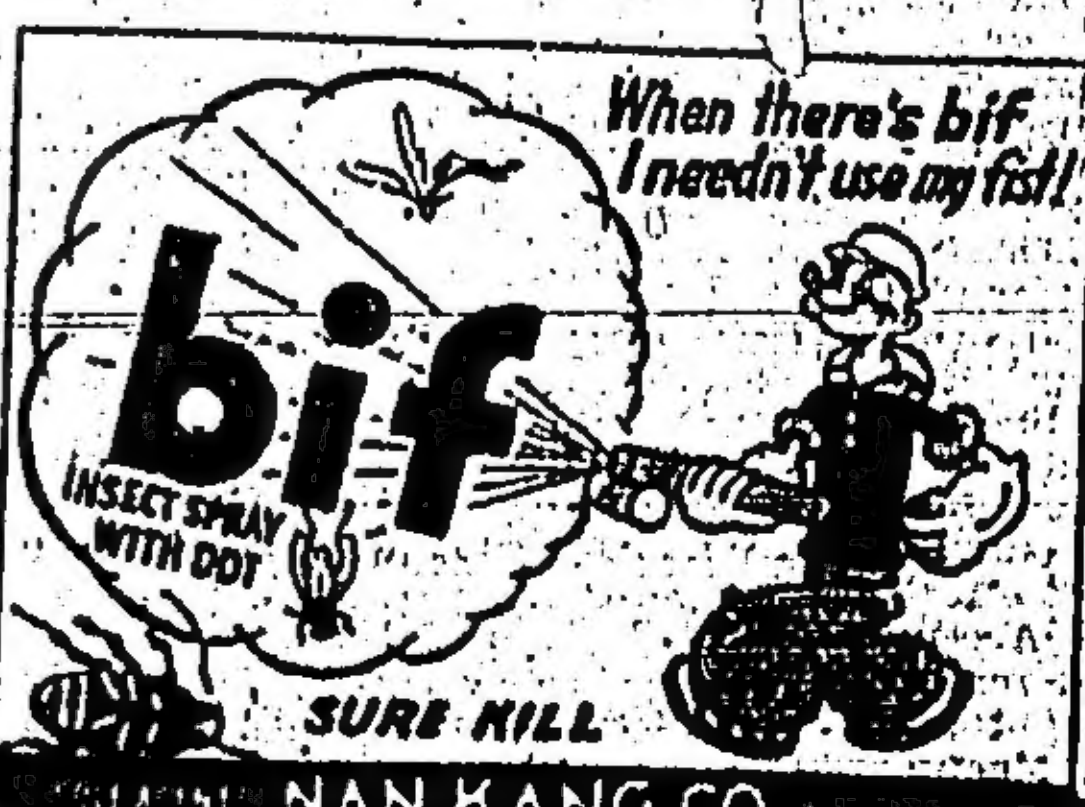
Sister ship to the famous Ajax, built at Devonport in 1932, Orion fought at Taranto, Matapan, and Creta. She was damaged at the battle of the invasion of Greece, the invasion of Southern France.

(London Express Service)

NANCY Taking No Chances



By Ernie Bushmiller



Union Insurance Co's Premium Income Up

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"Politically and economical ly. Asia, in particular, is distressed, and the outcome is undiscernible. The Society of course is concerned in this, but the worldwide distribution of its business and assets is a protection against the more serious consequences," declared the Hon. C. Blaker, Chairman of the Board of Directors, at the ordinary yearly meeting of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, held at the head office of the Society, Union Building, this morning.

The Chairman also disclosed that the combined premium income in all departments exceeded £4,900,000, an increase of more than £500,000 over the previous year. All departments, he said, played their part in attaining this record figure.

Warm tribute was paid to Mr. A. W. Hughes, General Manager, who is to retire soon after 10 years in that capacity.

Addressing the meeting, the Chairman said: "The printed Accounts in my Statement upon the Society's affairs. This draws attention briefly to the expansion which has taken place over the past ten years and mentions the United Kingdom Companies Act of 1947.

It is probable that further steps will be taken to conform to the requirements of this Act in our 1948 Accounts.

The troubled conditions of the world continued throughout the year. Economically there developed an unhealthy inflation that created a mirage of prosperity but concealed an underlying weakness and instability. Inevitably the mirage will disappear and, regrettably, to many, there will then come a sad awakening.

"FANTASTIC DREAM" There is little an individual can do to save off the blows of disillusionment, except, perhaps, by dispelling the fantastic dream that the world owes everyone a living and that less work must be rewarded with more pay.

Politically and economically Asia, in particular, is distressed, and the outcome is undiscernible. The Society of course is concerned in this, but the worldwide distribution of its business and assets is a protection against the more serious consequences.

I now refer to some of the more salient points in the Accounts before you.

The combined premium income in all departments exceeded £4,900,000, an increase of more than half a million pounds over the previous year. All departments played their part in attaining this record figure.

The Marine account shows premium income of £2,555,231, compared with £2,350,046 in 1947. While claims paid were slightly lower in percentage than last year, Management expenses showed a small increase in ratio.

From this account £75,000 and £200,000 have been transferred to Provision for Taxation and the Profit & Loss Account respectively.

We were fortunate during the year in escaping serious major marine casualties. Although port conditions have improved in some countries, claims for pilferage of cargo represent a sizeable proportion of claims paid and remain a cause for considerable concern to all underwriters.

Fire premium income increased by more than £200,000 and the transfer to Profit & Loss Account of £86,829 represents a satisfactory profit from this Revenue Account.

In the Accident & General Account while the ratio of profit shown in 1947 has not been maintained, the underwriting profit is nevertheless satisfactory.

The Profit & Loss Account this year has been sub-divided into two sections.

YEAR'S PROFIT

The first section shows that, including Interest and Dividends of £202,343, the Consolidated profit of the Companies for the year was £335,428.

The second section shows how the proportion of such profit pertaining to the Society, which amounts to £334,985, has been appropriated. It also includes the balance brought forward from the previous year.

From the latter section you will observe, that £22,502 has been retained in the Subsidiary Companies to strengthen their reserves, while £40,000 has been transferred to the Society's General Reserve, and £10,000 has been set aside by the Society as a provision for Staff pensions.

In addition to the transfers the Board recommend an increase in the dividend from twenty-seven shillings and sixpence to thirty shillings per share. The cost of the Dividend recommended is £202,500, which is covered by Interest & Dividend earnings—a very satisfactory position.

The balance carried forward at £300,888 is approximately the same as the balance brought forward from the previous year.

Turning to the Consolidated Balance Sheet, on the Liabilities side you will see that the Exchange and Investment Fluctuation Account now stands at £219,917. The Capital & Reserves Account, of £240,000, you will remember that by resolution at the Extraordinary General Meeting last year, the Society's Paid-Up Capital, was increased from £20 to £10 per

share, thereby making the shares fully paid. The Paid-Up Capital now stands at £1,350,000. The Marine, Fire and Accident Funds have all increased substantially as a result of the increased trading.

On the Assets side freehold House property has increased by £203,000 as a result of the purchase of properties in which to house our Staff in Eastern Europe, and to provide suitable offices for the accommodation of our expanding business in Canada. Practically all other items have increased, resulting from investment of the additional funds.

GREAT ACHIEVEMENT I have already mentioned in my Statement accompanying the Report and Accounts, the fact that the total Assets of the Society now exceed £10,000,000, and I think you will agree that this is an achievement of great moment in the Society's long history.

Once again I wish to express our thanks and great appreciation to all members of the staff whose loyalty and diligence are responsible for the splendid results achieved.

Regrettably illness has deprived us temporarily of the services of Mr. Colin S. Ward, Manager for Canada and Mr. Henry Sutter, President of Messrs. W. Roberts & Co., Inc., New York, our United States Managers. To each we extend our sympathy and our sincere wishes for a speedy restoration to their normal good health.

During the year we lost, through retirement, the services of Mr. G. S. Archbutt. Mr. Archbutt joined the Society's Staff from the "China Fire" at the time of acquisition of that Company on May 1, 1916. He is too well known to most of you to need a detailed mention of the many positions he has filled in the Society—terminating at the time of his retirement with that of Assistant General Manager. We shall miss his sound counsel, but wish him the years of health and of happiness in his retirement.

Our General Manager, Mr. A. W. Hughes, is shortly leaving us on retirement and I wish to take this opportunity of paying a special tribute to him. Mr. Hughes has now completed—10 years—as General Manager. His zealous leadership and resourcefulness, particularly during the very difficult period of the war, have been an inspiration to the staff and of inestimable value in the progress of the Society. I know you will join me in wishing him and Mrs. Hughes every happiness in the years to come.

In succession to Mr. Hughes your Directors are appointing Mr. L. B. Stone as General Manager. We are confident that Mr. Stone will carry on the high standard set by his predecessor and we extend a welcome to him.

SECONDER'S SPEECH

In seconding the adoption of the report and balance sheet Mr. A. S. MacKichan said:

Our Chairman has portrayed with clarity the activities of the Society over the past year and I do not propose to offer further comment on the results.

The present-day world is fraught with unusual difficulties and uncertainties, especially in Eastern Countries, so that the steady advancement by the Society in its worldwide organisation and the strong financial position displayed by the Report and Accounts at this time is the more commendable.

On behalf of all Shareholders I would like to offer my congratulations to the Directors, the Management and the Staff on the very excellent figures which their efforts have produced, and to express appreciation to all concerned on the progress and achievement which have warranted the payment of an increased dividend.

Now that three years of post-war rehabilitation have passed, the time opportune to relinquish the reins of office to those ready to take them up and to enjoy the retirement which, after the stresses and strains of the last few years, they so richly deserve. The Society is no exception and I join our Chairman in extending to Mr. Hughes and Mr. Archbutt my very best wishes for many years of happiness in their retirement.

Mr. Hughes as General Manager has, if I may say so, most successfully guided the Society's policy through probably the most difficult period since its inception.

In extending these farewell wishes may I couple with them our welcome to Mr. Stone as General Manager, whom we are confident will maintain the high standard of Management of the Society which has been set by his predecessors.

With these remarks I now have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Report and Accounts and Balance Sheet for 1948.

Present at the meeting were: The Hon. C. Blaker (Chairman), Messrs J. D. Alexander, E. R. Hill, J. F. Macgregor (Directors), A. W. Hughes (General Manager), L. B. Stone (Assistant General Manager), M. A. Annett, C. C. Blake, T. H. G. Brayfield, E. A. Brodie, A. V. Caddick, R. A. Dastur, H. G. Gardner, Lam Siu-lai, H. N. Laver, H. S. Lee, A. S. MacKichan, E. M. Metha, A. G. Palmer, J. A. Osmund, A. J. Palmer, J. A. Remedios, G. W. Sewell, A. R. D. Wilson and C. D. Wales.

Mr. J. F. Macgregor and Mr. M. H. Turner were re-elected Directors and Messrs Lowe, Bingham and Matthews, and Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company were reappointed auditors.

MR. HUGHES REPLIES Before the meeting ended, Mr. Hughes expressed thanks to the Chairman and Mr. MacKichan for their kind remarks. He added that he wanted to make one thing quite clear and that was that although the Society had been successful for 16 years no individual could assume responsibility for that. It was the result of good work, strenuous work, done by everyone. It would be entirely wrong for him to assume that he had played any more than his part in it. He expressed appreciation to the staff for the work they had done and to the directors for the assistance he had received from them and the sympathetic consideration they had given to various requests made by him to them.

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SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



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"Towser won't perform any tricks today—do you want to hear grandpa do his funny imitation of you giving a sermon?"

Malaya Asks For Financial Aid From Britain

London, May 19.—The Malayan Federal Legislative Council today decided to ask the United Kingdom to consider the Federation's serious financial situation and render speedy aid whenever needed.

The Prime Minister of Johore, Mr. Datu Onn, has moved a motion asking Britain to pay the full cost of the Malayan emergency, Reuter reported from Kuala Lumpur.

Lack of action by Home Government had put Malaya into the "mess and dire trouble" in which she found herself today, he said.

The Attorney General, Mr. S. Foster Sutton, referring to Chinese support for the motion, said that he was amazed at the audacity of the Members who had demanded that Britain should pay the full cost of the emergency.

He considered it the height of impertinence from a community from whom the majority of the terrorists came.

The Chief Secretary, Sir Alex Newbould, said that if the emergency continued at the present rate the estimated cost at the end of this year would be \$93,000,000. He saw little hope of the emergency ending without co-operation from the people of Malaya. This was still being withheld, he added.

Mrs. B. H. Oon, an unofficial representative on the Malayan Federal Legislative Council of professional, educational and cultural interests, said in London today that whatever happened in China, Malaya could claim Malaya as the 10th province in the country.

"There are nearly 1,000,000 Chinese in Malaya, excluding Singapore," she told Reuter. "Of the adult population, about 10 percent—a large percentage—are English-educated. I should say that not one percent is Communist."

"The terrorists are estimated officially to be 5,000 strong. They are said to be mostly Chinese. I would not admit for a moment, however, that all of them are Chinese. I am told that a lot of Japanese are hand in glove with them, directing their operations with knowledge gained during the Japanese invasion."

"In Britain I have seen expressed in newspapers or heard expressed elsewhere a fear and suspicion that the Chinese might claim Malaya as the 10th province of China. There can be no possible foundation for such an idea. We proved our loyalty to Britain during the Japanese occupation. We should not hesitate to do so again. But it

is no use being pro-Chinese or pro-Malay. The venting of racial viewpoints to the detriment of the other side will not help to rebuild that friendship between the two races that we wish to see—and which, indeed, is essential to the future of Malaya."—Reuter.

UK Seamen Defeat Alien Resolution

Douglas, Isle of Man, May 19.—The National Union of Seamen, at its conference here today, heavily defeated a resolution calling for legislation to exclude seamen from India and Pakistan from employment on British vessels.

The resolution was moved by Mr. T. White (Tilbury) "in view of the declared intention of these two countries to leave the British Commonwealth."

Mr. F. S. Wagner, a trustee, said that such questions were the subject of very delicate negotiation by the British Government, and the Union should not intervene.

The conference also defeated a Glasgow resolution calling for the exclusion of all aliens from employment on British ships.

Mr. E. Kerrigan (Glasgow) said that the Goanese stewards on certain ships sailing from the Clyde were paid at higher rates than British seamen, but worked 16 to 18 hours a day to the detriment of the Union hours' agreement.—Reuter.

Ede Shares Anxiety Over Eisler

London, May 19.—The Home Secretary, Mr. C. E. Rieu, said in the House of Commons today that he would not permit the extradition of Gerhart Eisler to the United States if he decided that Eisler was a political refugee.

However, Mr. Ede added that he could make no decision on the case until he had received a formal request for extradition from the United States, which would contain full charges against the alleged Communist leader.

The Secretary answered a barrage of questions for the second time since Eisler was arrested aboard the Soviet liner Batory off Southampton on May 14.

Mr. Ede admitted that the Eisler case was unprecedented in British and said he shared the "anxiety" of some members concerning the incident.—United Press.

India To Challenge Security Council

Hyderabad Issue

Lake Success, May 19.—India will, it is understood, challenge the competence of the Security Council to deal with the Hyderabad question when it meets today.

Sir Benegal Rau has received instructions from his Government to appear briefly before the Council. The Indian delegation had previously indicated that it would not take part in the proceedings.

The Indian delegate will, in effect, not take part in any discussion on the substance of the issue.

Sir Benegal will merely dispute the right of the Council to intervene in a matter which the Indian Government considers to be purely of a domestic concern.

This view is also expressed in a letter which Mr. M. Gopala Menon, First Secretary of the Indian delegation, handed to Mr. Trygve Lie, the Secretary-General today.

After drawing attention to previous letters from the Indian delegation on the subject, Mr. Menon said: "I am to emphasise once again that there was never any dispute or situation in Hyderabad likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security or to lead to international friction; and since the withdrawal of the complaint by the Nizam of Hyderabad, there has never been even the semblance of any such dispute or situation."

"It is only a dispute or situation of such an international character that can be dealt with by the Security Council under the Charter."

"Pakistan is, therefore, not competent to invoke the jurisdiction of the Security Council on this question."—Reuter.

Increase In Fees For Directors

An increase in the fees for the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Ltd. was approved in a special resolution at an extraordinary general meeting held in the Board Room of Messrs Jardine, Matheson this morning.

In proposing the resolution, the Hon. D. F. Landale, Chairman of the Board, said:

You will recall that at the Annual General Meeting, held on May 11, 1948, the Hon. T. N. Chau in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts for the year 1948, remarked on the inadequacy of the existing Directors' Fees, and suggested that steps should be taken to amend the relative clause in our Articles of Association.

This suggestion was subsequently supported by other Shareholders, and the motion before you today, of which due notice has been given by circular to every Shareholder, is designed to give effect to that suggestion. The motion is self-explanatory and requires no elaboration by me; I therefore formally move, as a Special Resolution, that the following shall be substituted for Clause 95 in the Articles of Association of the Company:

"Each Director of the Company shall be paid out of the funds of the Company remuneration for his services at the rate of \$2,500.00 per annum and such further sums as the Company in General Meeting may from time to time determine."

The Hon. T. N. Chau seconded and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Present at the meeting were the Hon. D. F. Landale (Chairman), the Hon. Sir Man-kam Lo, Messrs Horace Kadoorie, E. Offenberg, J. D. Alexander, E. R. Hill, H. D. Benham and T. B. Wilson (Directors), Mr. C. E. Terry (Manager), Mr. A. L. G. Eastman (Secretary), and the following shareholders: the Hon. T. N. Chau, Messrs P. Morrison, Wong Sik-kuen, W. Hyde and Mrs. W. A. Penny.

Radio Hongkong

11:20. Programme Summary: 8.01. "The Rendezvous" (Studio); 8.30. Cantonese by Radio; 8.45. by Miss Lee Wei Lai & K. Lee (Studio); 8.50. Three Songs from "Bridal Song"; 9.00. "Music Lovers' Turmoil" (Classical); 9.05. Programme presented by Yvonne Charter (Studio); 9.10. World News and News Analysis; 9.15. Vocal Recital by Vera Butteness-Deall, with Piano accompaniment by Betty Drew (Studio); 9.20. "From the Third Programme" (London Relay); "Blink or Blurt" (Studio); 9.25. The Truth about the danger of Atomic Bombing; A Talk by Dr. J. Bronowski; 9.35. Interview with Gerald Verner; 9.40. (London Relay); 9.45. "Hong Kong Dances to" Lino Colchalan and his band; 9.50. Ballroom Dances; 9.55. Vocal: Baby Darling; 10.00. The Show must go on! A Musical; 10.05. Gerald Verner; 10.10. The Sealed Dressing Room; 10.15. A Short Programme of the Music of Schubert; 10.20. Comedy Sketch; 10.25. Al Hoffman with Anton and His Organ and Voice; (ORBB); 10.30. Radio News; (London Relay); 11.15. Weather Report and Summary of News from China; 11.20. Close Down.

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FIRST TIME SHOWING IN HONGKONG
Which is stronger than "THE ATLANTIC LINE" A very complicated concrete fortification with deep trenches and the SO-CALLED "TURKEY IRON WALLS"

THIRD
WITH ENGLISH AND CHINESE SUB-TITLES
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MAJESTIC
TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20

SUSPENSE
COMMENCING SATURDAY
JOHN MILLS
"SCOTT OF THE ANTARCTIC"
Colour By Technicolor

Soviets Lift "Little Blockade" For Few Hours TO BE REIMPOSED TODAY

Berlin, May 19.—The Russians tonight lifted the "Little Blockade" of Helmsdorf on the British-Soviet sector boundary and then warned that it would be re-imposed tomorrow.

The "Little Blockade" began with the Russians demanding permits for German vehicles. Later they announced that tomorrow all German trucks would require permits — or they would not be allowed to roll on to Berlin.

These moves ended the confusion which held up traffic during the evening.

Hundreds of German lorries held up for 36 hours at the Helmsdorf border check-point, began rolling to Berlin today by an alternative route when the Russians issued orders to end their "little blockade".

The Soviet Military Administration in Berlin instructed the German police that road traffic for the capital was to be admitted by way of Oedelsfelde, 13 miles north of Helmsdorf, with ordinary inter-zonal papers.

Allied vehicles may still use the Helmsdorf-Berlin autobahn without hindrance.

SEVERE HANDICAP

The hold-up began with the Russian demand on Tuesday that German road consignments to Berlin must be counter-signed by the Soviet zone Economic Commission.

The Russians yesterday undertook to investigate Western complaints about the hold-up as "a matter of urgency".

Diversion through Oedelsfelde will be a severe handicap as the distance is much greater, and the road, although good, is narrow.

No date has yet been fixed for the next meeting of the four-Power economic experts in Berlin.

A British communiqué said that the financial experts would meet first, probably this week, and another four-Power transport officials' meeting would possibly be held tomorrow.

Confusion over further Russian "restrictions" on road transport into Berlin, after they had earlier today lifted their "little blockade" caused difficulties.

Trouble arose when a report and counter-report came in quick succession of new restrictions and of roads being opened without hindrance, by the Russians.

DEVELOPMENTS

Developments today were:

(1) After last night's Western protest, the Russians allowed Allied vehicles — but not German trucks — to come direct to Berlin from Helmsdorf, British zone, by the autobahn via Marienborn.

They insisted that German vehicles use the alternative route via Oedelsfelde, narrower and longer.

(2) Within a short time trucks were streaming along both routes.

(3) On the Oedelsfelde route tonight the Russians began stopping all German trucks with consignments for the British zone, against German administration in Berlin which they do not recognize. They allowed all other German trucks to pass.

(4) Major-General C. K. McLean, British Deputy Military Governor, sent a letter to General V. I. Chulikov, Soviet Military Governor, protesting against travel and trade restrictions. The details of his letter were not disclosed.

(5) Major-General George P. Hays, Acting United States Military Governor, also protested to General Chulikov — his protest being against restrictions on trucks passing through Helmsdorf and the provision of a 25-mile detour, because these were not in force before March 1, 1948 (the date of the beginning of the Berlin blockade).

BRITISH WARNING

(6) The British authorities in Berlin warned that it might become necessary to stop road supplies to Berlin "if present difficulties continued in trade and vehicle movement across the East-West zonal boundary." An official British statement laid full blame for the difficulties on the Russians.

(7) Lastly, from Helmsdorf, came a new, that, without notification, the Russians began demanding that German road consignments to Berlin must be counter-signed by the Soviet Zone Economic Commission.

The Russian authorities counter-signed Western protests by alleging that the British and American Governments "themselves had failed to carry out the New York agreement on the lifting of the blockade."

A Russian-controlled news agency less than half an hour before the news of the protests by General McLean and Hays became known, said:

"(1) The British authorities are holding back in the British zone 25 barges loaded with

Eisler Dragged Off Ship



Gerhart Eisler (partly obscured by rail), fugitive Communist from the U.S., is carried down the gangway of Polish ship Batory off Southampton, by British policemen after his arrest on May 14. Eisler, who jumped \$23,500 bail in the U.S., where two prison sentences are hanging over him, was carried into the tiny cabin of the tender Ramsey. After a swift run from Batory's anchorage to Southampton docks, the squat, 52-year-old Eisler was taken ashore. — AP Picture.

Scheme To Control Nile Waters

DAM TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN UGANDA

London, May 19.—The Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, told the House of Commons today that Britain and Egypt had agreed on a scheme for the control of the Nile waters which will benefit the whole Nile Valley.

Mr Bevin said, "In accordance with the spirit of the Nile waters agreement of 1921, the British and Egyptian governments have agreed to the construction of a dam in Uganda for the construction of a hydro-electric power plant and control of the waters of the Nile."

He said that plans and specifications for the work have been prepared and approved and it has been agreed that the Uganda Electricity Board will be entrusted with the issue of tenders and placing of contracts for the dam and Egyptian governments for joint approval.

Mr Bevin said although the construction of the Nile dam will be the responsibility of the Uganda Electricity Board it was also agreed that the Egyptian interest will be represented by an Egyptian resident engineer and a suitable staff. He said the Egyptian Ministry of Works and the Uganda Electricity Board will consult on matters of mutual interest and any differences of opinion will be referred to arbitration in accordance with arrangements to be agreed by the two governments.

Regarding Sudan's participation in the scheme, Mr Bevin said this would be subject to discussion between Egypt and Sudan.

He said the scheme will result in harnessing the Nile waters on such a scale "as to render possible greater development than has ever taken place."

Mr Bevin said, "In due course the people of Egypt and Sudan will derive great benefits from the scheme and hydro-electric power will become available for Uganda and increase its prosperity."

The Conservative Party deputy leader, Mr Anthony Eden, and the Liberal Party leader, Mr Clement Davies, both congratulated Mr Bevin on his success.

Mr Davis said he hoped it would cement friendly relations between Britain and Egypt.

Mr Bevin replied, "I think our relations with regard to the actual people of Egypt have not been very disturbed. There have been evanescent troubles but the Egyptian people have a great feeling of regard for the work we have done in these areas. I might add that the scheme of 1938 in Iraq has been renewed and in Iraq has been renewed and in Iraq has been renewed."

HARNESSING WATERS

He said, "The inability to settle differences will be referred to arbitration in accordance with arrangements to be agreed by the two governments."

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He said the scheme will result in harnessing the Nile waters on such a scale "as to render possible greater development than has ever taken place."

AMMUNITION CACHE FOUND

Cairo, May 19.—Two large underground stores of weapons and ammunition belonging to the outlawed Moslem Brotherhood were discovered today, when Alexandria police raided the harbour area and the Aboukir airfield district.

The area round the arms dumps was evacuated pending the removal of the explosives.

The extremist Moslem Brotherhood was outlawed by the Nokrady Government last December, shortly before the Premier's assassination.

RICE AGREEMENT

Milan, May 19.—An agreement has been reached between the Italian Rice Organisation and the British Food Ministry under which 35,000 tons of polished rice will be exported to Eastern European countries, it was reported by Milan today.

DISSOLUTION OF BELGIAN PARL.

Women Will Vote For First Time

Brussels, May 19.—Belgium's Parliament was dissolved tonight. The Minister of the Interior, M. Pierre Vermeiren, read a decree to this effect in both Houses of Parliament—the Chamber, Belgium's Lower House, and the Senate, the Upper House.

The decree was signed today by Prince Charles, the Belgian Regent. On June 26, Belgians will go to the polls to elect a new Parliament. Women in Belgium will be voting in the general elections for the first time.

The dissolution came as no surprise. Since March, 1947, Parliament has supported a Socialist-Catholic Coalition Government with the Socialist, M. Paul Henri Spak, as the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. Elected in October, 1946, the Parliament was dissolved tonight comprised in the Senate 85 Socialists, 17 Communists, 12 Liberals and 83 Catholics; and in the Chamber 92 Catholics, 99 Socialists, 23 Communists, 17 Liberals and one Catholic Independent.

AT LOGGERHEADS

The Socialists and Catholic Ministers have been at loggerheads for months past, the difficulty being Belgium's nearly five-year old Royal problem. The question of whether provisionally-exiled King Leopold should return to the throne or abdicate is bound to be a major election issue.

The Socialists will accept nothing but abdication. For the Catholics, the only solution is the King's return.

Breaking point was reached two months ago when a new issue arose, and both parties, finding the present arrangement intolerable, decided that it was best to go to the polls.

The split came when the Socialists and Catholics disagreed over the means of financing increased unemployment benefits to be paid to Belgium's 200,000 unemployed. The Socialists proposed additional taxes on company profits. The Catholics refused to agree.

The Catholics tonight left the Chamber, after the reading of the dissolution decree, shouting:

REBELS' HQ BURNED DOWN

Successful Govt Raid In South Burma

Rangoon, May 19.—The rebel Mons' headquarters in South Burma were burned down and 60 Mons were killed when government troops raided Htoning, near Moulmein, on Wednesday. It was officially announced today.

The dead included the Mons' leader, the announcement said. There was a strong resistance and fighting took place for three hours before government troops occupied Htoning, the announcement added, and during the large scale retreat across a river, several rebels were drowned.

Burmese planes bombed Makpala railway station 33 miles North of the rebel held town of Thalon, the announcement said, adding that Karen rebels had established a train service between Makpala and Thalon.

THREE-HOUR BATTLE

Government troops fought strong rebel forces for three hours near North Burma headquarters at Melkita before the rebels retreated.

The rebels, 60 of whom were killed, were approaching Melkita along the road from Mandalay when the government forces came into contact with them.

Other government forces in South Burma captured Kampe, a village in the Irrawaddy delta near Pyaw, where Communists were entrenched. The enemy carried away casualties, but 15 dead were counted after the battle.

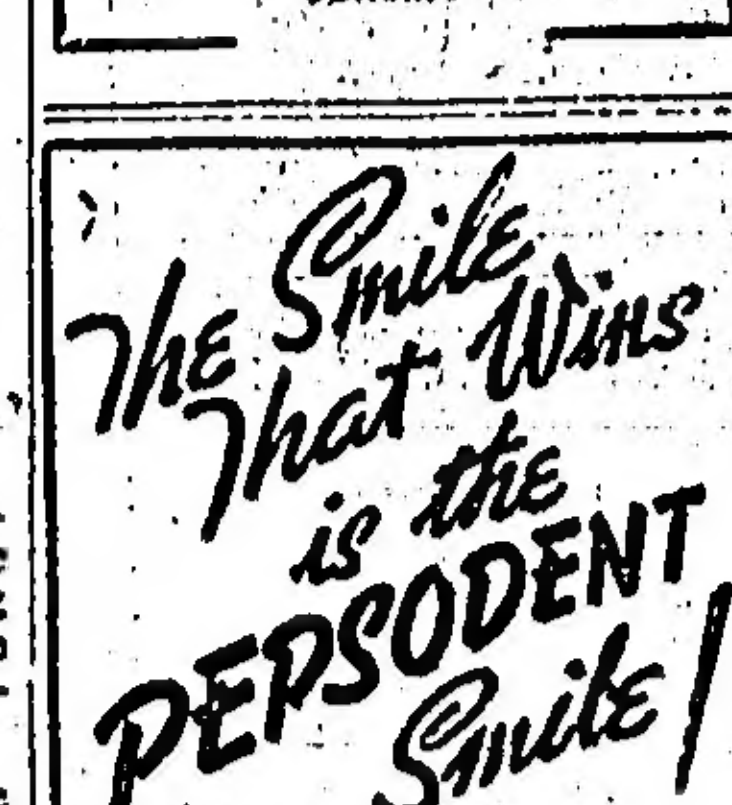
Fierce fighting between Karen and White Band FVOs (People's Volunteer Organisation) forces was reported in the vicinity of Kyalgon, a rice town in the Bassein district—Associated Press.

Crowd Breaks Up Auction Sale

Paris, May 19.—Five hundred persons broke up an auction sale of Marshal Philippe Petain's personal belongings yesterday when they shouted, "Vive Petain!" and then sang "Marseillaise" standing at attention.

The sale was suspended—Associated Press.

POCKET CARTOON



NOTICE

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announce that telegrams may now be accepted for TIENTSIN at urgent and ordinary rates. Messages must be in plain language. As for the rest of China these messages are accepted at senders' risk and at the same rates.

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HONGKONG TELEGRAPH

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